

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00245 280117Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-02 MCE-00 ACDA-12
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9744
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0245

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: FR CH US SO SU ET
SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER BARRE'S VISIT TO CHINA

REF: PEKING 238 (NOTAL)

1. FRENCH EMBASSY IN PEKING HAS PROVIDED USLO WITH
RELATIVELY EXTENSIVE BRIEFING ON TALKS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER
BARRE, FOREIGN MINISTER DEGUINGAUD AND VICE PREMIER
TENG HSIAO-PING AND FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA ON JANUARY
21. CONVERSATIONS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON AFRICA.

2. TENG POINTED TO SOMALIA AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF SOVIET
AGGRESSIVE INTENTION AND ADVISED FRANCE AND OTHER WESTERN
COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE WEAPONRY TO COUNTER SOVIET ASSISTANCE
TO ETHIOPIA. HE SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN REPORTED THAT THE
PRC WAS SENDING WEAPONS TO SOMALIA BUT THAT THIS WAS NOT
TRUE. DEGUINGAUD SAID THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR
FRANCE TO SUPPORT SOMALIA DIRECTLY WHEN THE SOMALIS
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HAD INVADED ETHIOPIA, ALTHOUGH THE SOMALIS HAD
ASKED WESTERN GOVERNMENTS FOR ARMS THEY HAD RECEIVED
VERY LITTLE. TENG LIKENED THE SOMALI SITUATION TO
THAT OF EGYPT AND SADAT'S POSITION TO THAT OF SIAD
BARRE. IF EVENTS TURNED AGAINST SOMALIA THE SOVIETS
COULD RETURN. DEGUINGAUD DISAGREED, SAW NO PARALLEL
AND SAID THAT WHILE THE EGYPTIANS HAD LOST TERRITORY

BECAUSE OF THE INVASION OF ANOTHER COUNTRY, IN THE
SOMALI CASE IT WAS THEY WHO HAD INVADED A NEIGHBOR.
FRANCE SUPPORTED THE EFFORT TO ARRIVE AT A PEACEFUL
SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT EITHER THROUGH THE UN OR THROUGH
THE OAU. TENG NOTED IN CONCLUSION THAT THE PRC EXPECTED
THE WAR TO GO ON AND TO BECOME MORE DIFFICULT GIVEN
PRESENT CUBAN INVOLVEMENT.
WOODCOCK

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